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M.V. Recordings, Hampton Wood, Warwickshire

By A. F. J. GARDNER

(Wood Cottage, Grove Fields, Hampton Lucy, Near Warwick)

For the last two years I have been running a Robinson moth trap with a 125 watt M.V. bulb in the garden of my home which backs on to Hampton Wood. This wood consists of approximately 18 acres and is situated between the villages of Barford and Hampton Lucy near Warwick. It was cut considerably around wartime and left for grazing cattle, consequently there are few species of low-growing plants and large bramble and hawthorn thickets have grown up. The trees are mainly deciduous and in some variety with about a dozen conifers surrounded by large clearings.

I have taken 296 species of larger moths at light, except for Saturnia pavonia L. which flew to a cage of newly hatched females situated in the garden. The following is a list of the more interesting species taken:—

Clostera curtula L., two; Achlya flavicornis L., common; Polyploca ridens F., three; Leucoma salicis L., one; Lycophotia varia de Vill., two; Rhyacia simulans Hufn., fairly common; Spaelotis ravida D. & S., three; Polia nitens Haws., five; P. nebulosa Hufn., one; Orthosia populeti F., one; Xylomyges conspicillaris L., one; Cucullia umbratica L., fairly common; C. chamomillae D. & S., fairly common; C. verbasci L., fairly common: Lithophane semibrunnea Haw., two; Dryobotoides eremita F., fairly common; Eupsilia transversa Hufn., one; Tiliacea aurago D. & S., fairly common; Cryphia perla D. & S., four: Apamea unanimis Hühn., one; Apamea ophiogramma Esp., ten; A. scolopacina Esp., one; Eremobia ochroleuca D. & S., two; Celaena leucostigma Hübn., one; Pyrrhia umbra Hufn., one; Cosmia pyralina D. & S., fairly common; C. affinis L., fairly common; C. diffinis L., thirteen; Rhizedra lutosa Hübn., three: Nonagria typhae Thunb., one; Nycteola revayana Scop., one; Polychrisia moneta F., four; Plusia festucae L., two; Trichiura crataegi L., fairly common; Gastropacha quercifolia L., five: Lithosia complana L., three; Geometra papilionaria L., two; Nycterosea obstipata F., two; Larentia clavaria Haw., six: Mesoleuca albicillata L., one; Perizoma bifaciata Haw., one; Euphyia unangulata Haw., fairly common; Chloroclysta miata L., one; Rheumaptera undulata L., one; Chesias legatella D. & S., one; Chiasmia clathrata L., one.

Numbers of species per month in 1972 were: January (1); March (13); April (21); May (41); June, 72; July, 145; August, 139; September, 78; October, 46; November, 21; December, 3.

Numbers of species per month in 1972 were: January 1; March, 13; April, 21; May, 41; June, 72; July, 145; August, August, 108; September, 63; October, 37; November, 14.

The highest catch on any one night was 5,000 + on 22nd July 1972.

Joint Committee for the Conservation of British Insects

RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES—GENERAL LIST

Recently, lists of Macrolepidoptera, and of Odonata and Orthoptera, which this Committee considers are at risk in Britain have been published. The Committee has now compiled a short list of other British insects which it also considers should be collected with restraint. Because such insects are not subject to the same pressures from collecting it has not been necessary to compile a long list despite their much greater numbers. Moreover the criteria adopted in selecting species for inclusion on the list have not been exactly the same as those which are appropriate for the more popular groups. Only species which are either particularly conspicuous or easily collected, or which are known to occur in only one restricted locality have been included. In some cases both these criteria apply.

The committee is aware that it may be criticised for suggesting that species outside the popular groups may be vulnerable to over-collecting. It appreciates that in many cases the knowledge does not exist which would enable a fully informed decision to be taken on such matters. On the other hand the Committee believes, first, that a policy of restraint in collecting very restricted species is necessary because they are especially vulnerable to threats of other kinds. Secondly, it believes that each case should be judged on its merits, as far as this is possible. Thirdly, it is anxious to avoid any impression that the collectors of the more popular groups, particularly Lepidopterists, are alone being singled out for implied criticism. The 'general list' has been kept short, partly because of a lack of up-to-date information and partly for the reason stated above, but more particularly because the Committee believes that long lists are self-defeating.

The Committee urges all entomologists to follow the advice given in the 'Code for Insect Collecting' and to exercise restraint in collecting the following species: